Each resume style projects a different "look and feel" by utilizing different formatting parameters, which include margin settings, font type, font size, and text justification, and the different styles can be iteratively applied to the user's resume until the user finds the appropriate one.

According to the present invention, this is accomplished by storing the resume data collected from the user separately from the style data. In a preferred embodiment, the user data is stored in a database, while the style data are implemented as style sheets. To create a resume, the user enters his or her information and the data is stored in the database. When the user selects a particular resume style, the selected style is applied to the user-supplied data and then displayed. The user may then choose a different style to apply to the data, or alternatively, the user may customize a style by adjusting the settings of the formatting parameters for particular elements of the resume, such as name, address, section titles, etc. Thus, for instance, the user can modify the appearance of those elements by changing the font size or line spacing.

Referring now to the claims, independent claims 1, 12, 23, 38, and 44-46 are provided below for convenience:

1. A method for allowing a user to dynamically change the style of an online resume that is created using an online guided resume creation system, the system comprising at least one database, the at least one database comprising a plurality of fields requiring input of data, the method comprising the steps of:

a) displaying a plurality of resume styles for user selection, each one of the plurality of resume styles defining a plurality of formatting parameters for the entire online resume, wherein the plurality of formatting parameters includes margin settings, font type, font size, and text justification and each resume style having a corresponding style sheet describing the resume style, including positions within the resume style of fields of data from the database;

b) collecting data from a user;

c) prompting the user to select one resume style from the plurality of resume styles;

d) automatically creating a file from the user data;

e) applying the style sheet corresponding to the selected resume style to the file to transform the file into a resume file that is viewable online and printable.

12. A computer-readable medium for allowing a user to dynamically change the style of an online resume that is created using an online guided resume creation system, the system

comprising at least one database, the at least one database comprising a plurality of fields requiring input of data, the computer-readable medium comprising the instructions of:

a) displaying a plurality of resume styles for user selection, each one of the plurality of resume styles defining a plurality of formatting parameters for the entire online resume, wherein the plurality of formatting parameters includes margin settings, font type, font size, and text justification and each resume style having a corresponding style sheet describing the resume style, including positions within the resume style of fields of data from the database;

b) collecting data from a user;

c) prompting the user to select one resume style from the plurality of resume styles;

d) automatically creating a file from the user data;

e) applying the style sheet corresponding to the selected resume style to the file to transform the file into a resume file in the selected resume style, whereby the resume file is viewable online and printable.

23. A system for allowing a user to dynamically change the style of an online resume that is created using an online guided resume creation system, the system comprising at least one database, the at least one database comprising a plurality of fields requiring input of data, comprising:

a plurality of style sheets for describing different resume styles, including positions within the resume styles of fields of data from the database, wherein each resume style defines a plurality of formatting parameters for the entire online resume, and the plurality of formatting parameters includes margin settings, font type, font size, and text justification;

a user interface for collecting information from a user and for allowing the user to select a resume style from a plurality of resume styles;

means for automatically creating a file from the user data;

means for transforming the file into a resume file by applying the style sheet corresponding to the user selected resume style to the file.

34. A method for automatically providing delimiters in an online resume that is created using an online guided resume creation system, the system comprising at least one database, the at least one database including a plurality of fields requiring input of data, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning a numerical value to each field of the plurality of fields in the database;

providing a plurality of style sheets, each style sheet of the plurality of style sheets describing a different resume style, wherein each resume style defines a plurality of formatting parameters for the entire online resume, and the plurality of formatting parameters includes margin settings, font type, font size, and text justification;

providing a plurality of case statement codes in each style sheet, wherein each case statement code represents a respective sum value of numerical values of a combination of fields associated with a section;

prompting the user to enter data into the plurality of fields;

determining the sum of the combination of fields associated with the section by adding the numerical values assigned to the fields containing user data; and

executing the case statement code corresponding to the sum value of the combination of fields to determine where the fields are positioned and where the delimiters are placed relative to the fields.

38. A method for allowing a user to customize a style of an online resume that is created using an online guided resume creation system, the system comprising at least one database, the at least one database comprising a plurality of fields requiring input of data, the method comprising the

steps of:

a) displaying a plurality of resume styles for user selection, each one of the plurality of resume styles defining a plurality of formatting parameters for the entire online resume, wherein the plurality of formatting parameters includes margin settings, font type, font size, and text justification and each resume style having a corresponding style sheet describing the resume style, including positions within the resume style of fields of data from the database;

b) collecting data from a user;

c) prompting the user to select one resume style from the plurality of resume styles, the resume style having a plurality of custom settings corresponding to the plurality of formatting parameters;

d) allowing the user to adjust the plurality of custom settings associated with the selected resume style;

e) automatically creating a file from the user data, the user selected resume style, and the adjusted plurality of custom settings;

f) applying the style sheet corresponding to the selected resume style to the file, thereby transforming the file into a resume file that is viewable online and printable.

44. A method for allowing a user to dynamically change the style of an online resume that is created using an online guided resume creation system, the system comprising a plurality of fields requiring input of data, the method comprising the steps of:

a) displaying a plurality of resume styles for user selection, wherein each one of the plurality of resume styles defines a plurality of formatting parameters for the entire online resume, the plurality of formatting parameters including margin settings, font type, font size, and text justification;

b) collecting data from a user;

c) prompting the user to select one resume style from the plurality of resume styles;

d) automatically creating a file from the user data;

e) transforming the file into a resume file formatted in the selected resume style that is viewable online and printable; and

f) repeating steps (c) – (e) until the user finalizes the resume file, thereby allowing the user to dynamically apply different styles to the resume file.

45. A computer-readable medium for allowing a user to dynamically change the style of an online resume that is created using an online guided resume creation system, the system comprising a plurality of fields requiring input of data, the computer-readable medium comprising the instructions of:

a) displaying a plurality of resume styles for user selection, wherein each one of the plurality of resume styles defines a plurality of formatting parameters for the entire online resume, the plurality of formatting parameters including margin settings, font type, font size, and text justification;

b) collecting data from a user;

c) prompting the user to select one resume style from the plurality of resume styles;

d) automatically creating a file from the user data;

e) transforming the file into a resume file formatted in the selected resume style, whereby the resume file is viewable online and printable; and

f) repeating steps (c) – (e) until the user finalizes the resume file.

46. A system for allowing a user to dynamically change the style of an online resume that is created using an online guided resume creation system, the system comprising a plurality of fields requiring input of data, comprising:

a user interface for collecting information from a user and for allowing the user to select a resume style from a plurality of resume styles, wherein each resume style defines a plurality of formatting parameters for the entire online resume, the plurality of formatting parameters including margin settings, font type, font size, and text justification;

means for automatically creating a file from the user data;

means for transforming the file into a resume file formatted in the user selected resume style; and

means for allowing the user to reselect resume styles to apply to the resume file.

Applicants respectfully submit that ResuMaker in view of MS Word fails to teach or suggest the present invention, as recited in independent claims 1, 12, 23, 34, 38 and 44-46.

ResuMaker creates an online resume for a user by guiding the user through a series of selection pages, into which the user enters data. However, as admitted by the Examiner, "ResuMaker does not specifically disclose each resume style defining formatting parameters for the entire online resume, including margins, font type/size, justifications, with each style having an associated style sheet." To correct the deficiencies of ResuMaker, the Examiner cited the resume styles and Resume Wizard of MS Word.

The Examiner asserts that MS Word teaches user-selectable default documents based upon an associated templates that describe a specific resume style. While this is true, unlike the claims of the present invention, MS Word does not allow the user to change the style once the template is applied to the user data. This is shown in the print-outs supplied by the Examiner. Page 2 of the print-out shows the selection of a "contemporary" resume style or template, and page 3-5 show the template applied to the data of "Deborah Greer." Page 6 shows the user changing the selection to an "elegant" resume style, but this style is not then applied to Deborah Greer's resume. Instead, the "elegant" resume style is applied to the data of "Rich Andrews," which contains totally different user data, as shown on pages 7-9. The reason MS Word does

not allow the user to change styles after the style is applied to user data is because MS Word merges formatting data with the user data, whereas in the present invention, formatting data is stored separately from the user data.

Accordingly, the combination of references fails to disclose a "plurality of resume styles ..., each resume style having a corresponding style sheet describing the resume style, including positions within the resume style of fields of data from the database." The combination further fails to teach or suggest "automatically *creating a file* from the user data, and *applying the style* sheet corresponding to the selected resume style to the file *to transform* the file into a resume file in the selected resume style," as recited in claims 1 and 12. In addition, claims 44-46 recite that the steps of selecting a style and applying it to the user data can be repeated. As stated above, in constrast to the present invention, the references merge the style data with the user data after the style is applied, such that a new style cannot be applied.

For these same reasons, the combination of references fails to teach or suggest the steps of "allowing the user to adjust the plurality of custom settings associated with the selected resume style," "automatically creating a file from the user data, the user selected resume style, and the adjusted plurality of custom settings" and " then applying the style sheet corresponding to the selected resume style to the file, thereby transforming the file into a resume file that is viewable online and printable, as recited in claim 23.

Referring now to claim 34, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of ResuMaker and MS Word fails to teach or suggest "automatically providing delimiters in an online resume" based on the information provided by the user. As explained above, the present invention allows the user to enter data into a plurality of fields in a section of the resume. Each field is assigned a numerical value. The position in the resume of the data in each field and the placement of delimiters relative to the fields are determined by case statement codes. The

particular case statement code executed corresponds to the sum of the numerical values of the fields that contain data. Thus, in the present invention, the user is not required to enter delimiters to separate information packets, e.g., separating a job title with the start date.

It is noted that on page 18 of the MS Word print-out cited by the Examiner, an example of a created resume is shown where each heading (e.g., Education) is followed by one or more fields. As shown, the fields are not separated by delimiters of any kind. Therefore, the combination of ResuMaker and MS Word not only fail to teach "a method for automatically providing delimiters in an online resume" but also fails to teach or suggest the result of the method, i.e., "to determine where the fields are positioned and where the delimiters are placed relative to the fields," as recited in claim 34.

Nothing in ResuMaker or MS Word teaches or suggests providing delimiters automatically to the online resume *based on the data entered by the user*. Nothing teaches or suggests "assigning a numerical value to each field," "providing a plurality of case statement codes," and "executing the case statement code corresponding to the sum value of the combination of fields to determine . . . where the delimiters are placed relative to the fields," as recited in claim 34. For instance, in the Header selection page the user is requested to select a Header Layout. The "Streamline Header" includes a divider line (delimiter) between the user's name and the address/phone number. Regardless of the information entered, the divider line *always* appears, either above the address/phone number or below the user's name. If no information is entered, the divider line *still* appears. This clearly indicates that no "case statement code corresponding to the sum value of the combination of fields" determines "*where the delimiters are placed* relative to the fields," as recited in claim 34. If the opposite were true, i.e., a case statement code determines where delimiters are placed, the divider line *would not* appear if certain fields did not contain data.

Applicants respectfully submit that while case statement codes are a well known computer data structure, the way in which the present invention determines *which* case statement code to execute would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill. In the present invention, the "case statement code corresponding to the *sum value* of the combination of fields" that contain user data is executed. The fact that ResuMaker allows the user to choose from a plurality of body layout styles does not imply that each field is assigned a numerical value and that the "case statement code corresponding to the *sum value* of the combination of fields" that contain user data is executed. Nothing in ResuMaker teaches or suggests utilizing case statement codes in such a manner. Accordingly, for this additional reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 34 is allowable over ResuMaker.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 12, 23, 34, 38 and 44-46 are allowable over ResuMaker in view of MS Word. Claims 2-11, 13-22, 24-33, 35-37, and 39-43 depend from claims 1, 12, 23, 34, and 38, respectively. Therefore, the arguments apply with full force to claims 2-11, 13-22, 24-33, 35-37, and 39-43. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-11, 13-22, 24-33, 35-37, and 39-43 are also allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims 1-46 are allowable over the cited reference and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and objections to the claims, as now presented.

Applicants' attorney believes that this Application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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